# Weekly Fish and Water Operations Outlook

1/21/2025 – 1/27/2025

## Water Project Operational Intent for Week

Both (CVP and SWP) water projects are operating to the following D-1641 standards: 1) monthly average Delta Outflow not less than 6,000 cfs for January 2) E/I ratio no greater than 0.65, and 3) daily Chlorides at Contra Costa Intake (at Rock Slough) no greater than 250 mg/l. I

The 2025 OMR management season has begun, so the 14-day averaged OMR index cannot be more negative than –5,000 cfs according to both the Federal Biological Opinions and State ITP for joint project operations.

Last week, the “catch” of Longfin smelt at Stations 809 and 812 in the latest Smelt Larval Survey “triggered” COA 8.4.2 (Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection Action) in the ITP and PA. If the 7-day averaged QWEST is less than +1500 cfs, the OMRI limit of no more negative than –3,500 cfs is mandated per COA 8.4.2.

Based on recent salvage data, the loss of winter-run salmon exceeded the weekly loss threshold, so the OMRI limit of no more negative than –3,500 cfs on a 7-day averaged basis will be implemented per COA 8.4.4 (Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Weekly Distributed Loss Threshold) of ITP and PA by Wednesday, (1/22) unless it is determined that the fish is not a winter-run.

## Biological Context

OMRI shall not be more negative than –5,000 cfs on a 14-day averaged basis during the OMR Management Season. An OMRI limit of no more negative than –3,500 cfs (on a 7-day averaged basis) is effective if the 7-day averaged QWEST is less than +1500 cfs per COA 8.4.2. An OMRI limit of no more negative than –3,500 cfs (on a 7-day averaged basis) has tentatively been “triggered” per COA 8.4.4 of ITP for implementation before or on this Wednesday.

## Forecasted Weather

Dry with near to above normal high temperatures. Cold low temperatures in the morning with chances of frost and fog.

## Tables

Table 1: Anticipated weekly operational ranges by tributary. Environmental and fish conditions are updated by respective watershed groups at varying intervals that may not coincide with the weekly range of Water Operations shown.

| Tributary/Division | Anticipated Weekly Ranges | Related Environmental and Fish Conditions |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Clear Creek | * Current Release: 300 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 300 cfs. | * Fall-run Chinook Salmon eggs hatching, fry are emerging, and juveniles are rearing. * Late fall-run Chinook Salmon adults are spawning and their eggs are incubating * Spring-run Chinook Salmon juveniles are rearing and emigrating. * *O. mykiss* adults are migrating and spawning. * (Updated 1/14/2025) |
| Sacramento River | * Shasta Storage: 3.480 MAF * Current Release: 6,000 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 5,000 cfs to 6,000 cfs. | * Spring-run Chinook Salmon fry have all emerged and are migrating downstream. * Fall-run adults have completed spawning, fall-run fry downstream passage counts are increasing daily, although fry also remain in gravel * Late-fall adults are spawning and eggs are in gravel * Winter-run fry are still migrating past RBDD in relatively low numbers. * Small numbers of late fall-run pre-smolts, late fall-run juveniles from last spring, spring-run and fall-run smolts, and *O. mykiss* juveniles are also passing RBDD at this time. * (Updated 1/13/2025) |
| Feather River | * Oroville Storage: 2.534 MAF * Current Release: 1,750 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,750 cfs * Daily temperature maximum: 55 degrees F at Fish Hatchery | * Spring-run Chinook Salmon spawning is complete, juveniles are emerging and are migrating downstream. * Fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning is complete. Juveniles are emerging and migrating downstream. * Adult *O. mykiss* present and migrating upstream. * (Updated 1/14/2025) |
| American River | * Folsom Storage: 366 TAF * Current Release: 1,750 cfs * Anticipated Weekly Range of Releases: 1,750 cfs | * Fall-run Chinook Salmon adult spawning is nearly completed * Redds are being observed. * Eggs are in gravel and incubating. * Fry are beginning to emerge and migrate downstream. * (Updated 1/13/2025) |
| Stanislaus River | * New Melones Storage: 1.863 MAF * Current Release: 200 cfs * Anticipated Range of Weekly Releases: 200 cfs. | * Juvenile and adult *O. mykiss* are present. * Adult fall-run Chinook Salmon spawning is nearly complete. * Eggs are in gravel and incubating. * (Updated 1/13/2025) |
| Delta | * Freeport: 15,000 to 30,000 cfs * Vernalis: 1,100 to 1,300 cfs * Delta Outflow index: 12,000 to 25,000 cfs * Combined Exports: 3,500 to 4,800 cfs * JPP: 800 cfs to 4,200 cfs * CCF: 600 cfs to 3,400 cfs * Expected Daily OMR Index Values: -3,400 to -5,100 cfs * DCC Gates: Closed on 11/18. * X2 = 62 km * Tides: Neap today transitioning to spring over the week; First Quarter Moon on 1/21 * QWest = 1,384 cfs | * Yearling and YOY Chinook Salmon are migrating into the Delta. * In the last 4 weeks adult Delta smelt have been detected in Cache Slough, the lower Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, Suisun Marsh, and Suisun Bay. * One marked adult Delta smelt was detected in salvage at TFCF on 1/17/25. * A total of 58,696 individual adult Delta smelt have been released so far in WY2025. So far, there have been 29 confirmed detections of marked Delta smelt. * Larval longfin smelt have been detected in the Central and South Delta (60 larval longfin smelt at stations 809 and 812), Sacramento River, Suisun Marsh, Suisun Bay, the Confluence, and San Pablo Bay. * Juvenile longfin smelt have been detected in Suisun Marsh, Suisun Bay, Grizzly Bay, the Lower Sacramento River, and at Chipps Island. * Adult longfin smelt have been detected in Suisun Marsh and Bay, Central and South Delta, Sacramento River, and Chipps Island. Adult LFS have also been detected in salvage at TFCF. * (Updated 1/21/2025) |

Table 2a-b: WY 2025 relevant Fish and Environmental Criteria and Status in 2019 Reclamation LTO Action Cumulative loss for the duration of 2019 Biological Opinion began upon signature of ROD, 2/19/2020.

Table 2a: WY 2025 Salmonid Current Loss and Delta Smelt Abiotic Conditions. Additional Real-Time OMR Restrictions and Performance Objectives (4.10.5.10.2, 4.10.5.10.3) and Onset of OMR Management (4.10.5.10.1). Genetic identification of salmon is not used in calculating loss, but results are included in the Assessment as they become available.

| Species/run | Threshold | Current Status | Weekly Trend | Updated |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Green sturgeon | WY 2025 salvage = 74 | WY 2025 salvage = (0%) | No change expected | 1/21/2025 |
| Natural winter-run Chinook Salmon | See Table 3a | See Table 3a | See Table 3a | 1/21/2025 |
| Natural Steelhead | 50% threshold – 1500  75% threshold -  2250  100% threshold - 3000 | WY 2025 loss = 17.32 (1.1% of 50% threshold) | Likely to see more salvage | 1/21/2025 |
| Steelhead Weekly Loss Threshold | 7-day rolling sum of steelhead salvage exceeds loss of 120 fish | No exceedances | No change expected | 1/21/2025 |
| Sacramento River Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | See Table 3a | See Table 3a | See Table 3a | 1/21/2025 |
| Battle Creek  Hatchery winter-run Chinook salmon | See Table 3a | See Table 3a | See Table 3a | 1/21/2025 |
| Proposed Action Hatchery yearling spring-run Chinook salmon surrogates | See Table 3a | See Table 3a | See Table 3a | 1/21/2025 |
| Delta Smelt | See Table 3b | See Table 3b | See Table 3b | 1/06/2025 |
| Longfin Smelt | See Table 3c | See Table 3c | See Table 3c | 1/06/2025 |

Table 3a-d: Relevant Water Year 2025 Fish Criteria and Status for Listed Fish under the SWP Long-Term Incidental Take Permit.

Table 3a: Chinook Salmon

\* No draft WR JPE for WY 2025. Final JPE letter is expected in January. A JPE surrogate is currently being used for COA 8.4.4 until the final JPE is issued.

| Action | Timeframe | Current Action Status | Threshold(s) | Current Relevant Data | Weekly Trend | Last  Updated | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Onset of OMR Management (8.3) | Jan. 1 - Jun. 30 | In effect | Begins January 1 or earlier if COA 8.3.1, COA 8.3.2, or COA 8.3.3 are in effect (see Table 3b) | N/A | N/A | 1/21/25 | N/A |
| Winter-run Annual Loss  (8.4.3) | July 1 - Jun. 30 | In effect | -Natural-origin Winter-run Loss Threshold: 0.5% of JPE  -Hatchery-origin Winter-run Loss Threshold: 0.12% of JPE | Confirmed Genetic WR Annual Loss = 2.54 | N/A | 1/21/25 | 1 LAD WR observed on 1/19, genetics has not been confirmed |
| Natural-origin Winter-run Early Season Weekly Loss Thresholds  (8.2.1) | Nov. 1- Dec. 31 | Not in Effect | N/A | 1 LAD WR was observed on 12/17/24 which counted towards the 7-day loss; however, genetics confirmed it as NOT a winter-run. | N/A | 1/6/25 | COA 8.2.1 was in effect beginning 12/22/24 but no longer in effect beginning 1/1/24. |
| Natural-origin Winter-run Weekly Loss (8.4.4) | Jan 1 – June 30 | In effect | Thresholds based on Table 4, Column E of 2024 SWP ITP:  [Annual Loss Threshold (based on JPE surrogate) x 50% of Annual Loss Threshold x Winter-run in Delta (based on Column E)] | 1/8/25-1/9/25 Threshold: 0.56  1/10/25-1/14/25 Threshold:0.79  1/15/25-1/21/25 Threshold: 3.21 | As of 1/16 7-day loss: 2.54 genetically confirmed; (8.80) *pending genetic confirmation of 1 fish)*.  Total loss of 7 day rolling sum (includes both LAD and genetics:  11.34 | 1/21/25 | Loss for week of 1/15-1/21 was triggered on 1/19. Currently waiting for confirmation of genetics for operational change. |
| Spring-run Protection Action and Surrogate Annual Loss  (8.4.5) | Natural-origin: Oct. – June 30  Hatchery-origin: Nov. 1 – June 30 | Natural- origin~~:~~ In effect  Hatchery-origin:  In effect | Group 1**: 1,747.23** (0.25% of 698,892 fish released)  Group 2:  **193.39**  (0.25% of 77,355 fish released)  Group 3:  **186.10**  (0.25% of 74,725) | Current Loss for Group #1 through 1/5/25: 978.84 (**56.02%** of the loss threshold)  Current Loss for Group #2 through 1/5/24:  72.52  (**37.50**% of the loss threshold)  Current Loss for Group #3 through 1/17: 0% | Likely to see more salvage | Group 1 & 2 updated 1/12/25  Group 3 updated 1/21/25 | No natural- origin Chinook Salmon spring-run salmon have been salvaged yet in WY 2025.  The second group was released on 12/13/24.  The third group was released on 1/17/25. |

Table 3b: Delta Smelt

| Action | Timeframe | Current Action Status | Threshold(s) | Current Relevant Data | Weekly Trend | Last Updated | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First Flush Action (8.3.1) | Dec. 1 – last day of February | Not active  Action triggered on Dec. 16, active from Dec. 19 through Jan 1, 2025 | - three-day Freeport (FPT) daily flow running avg>= 25,000 AND  [three-day Freeport turbidity running avg >=50 NTU OR Smelt Monitoring Team recommendation] | FPT 3-day avg.  Flow = Not relevant  Turbidity = Not relevant | N/A | 1/6/2025 |  |
| Adult Delta Smelt Entrainment Protection (“Turbidity Bridge Avoidance”) (8.3.2) | After IEWPP or Dec. 20 until 3-day average  temperatures at Jersey Point (SJJ) or Rio Vista (RVB) exceed 12 °C (53.6 °F) | Not active; triggered on 1/12  and implemented 1/15-1/17 | Occurs after the Integrated Early Winter Pulse protection or December 20 (whichever comes first) until 3-day average temperature offramp at Jersey Point (SJJ) or Rio Vista (RVB) > 12 °C (53.6 °F)  -OBI, OSJ, and HOL turbidity>12 FNU  -Vernalis flow >10,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <8,000 cfs (reinstated) | OSJ Turbidity = 11.05 FNU  HOL Turbidity = 7.47 FNU  OBI Turbidity = 6.88 FNU  3-d SJJ temp = 9.80 °C  3-d RVB temp = 9.61 °C  Vernalis Flow = 1,100 to 1,300 cfs | Turbidity elevated | 1/21/25 |  |
| Larval and Juvenile Delta smelt Protection (8.4.1) | After Adult Delta smelt Entrainment Protection ends | Not active | SLS/20mm Secchi depth for 12 south delta stations <= 1m  -Rio Vista flows >55,0000 cfs or Vernalis flows >8,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <40,000 cfs (Rio Vista) or <5,000 (Vernalis) reinstated | Current 5-day salvage = Not relevant  Secchi depth = Not relevant | N/A |  | N/A |

Table 3c: Longfin Smelt

| Action | Timeframe | Current Action Status | Threshold(s) | Current Relevant Data | Weekly Trend | Last Updated | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Adult LFS Protection (8.3.3) | Dec. 1 - end of February | Active; not triggered | -Cum. salvage > (Age 1+ LFS Index/20) +1 = 181 fish | Cum LFS salvage greater than 60mm = 8 | No change expected | 1/7/25 |  |
| Larval and Juvenile Longfin Smelt Entrainment Protection (8.4.2) | Jan. 1 – Jun. 30 | Active; not triggered | -7-day average QWEST < +1,500 cfs, AND LFS larvae or juveniles in most recent SLS or 20 mm survey at 809 & 812 > 50; OR cumulative salvage > 50 or 75% avg annual salvage 2009-present  -Rio Vista flows >55,0000 cfs or Vernalis flows >8,000 cfs (temporary offramp); <40,000 cfs (Rio Vista) or <5,000 (Vernalis) reinstated | 7-day average QWEST =  +1,384 cfs  Larval/juvenile (>20mm) 809 + 812 catch (SLS 1) = 60  Cumulative juvenile (>20mm) salvage = 0  Rio Vista Flow = 14,000-24,000 cfs  Vernalis Flow = 1,100 to 1,300 cfs | No change expected | 1/21/25 |  |

Table 3d: OMR

| Action | Timeframe | Current Action Status | Threshold(s) | Current Relevant Data | Weekly Trend | Last Updated | Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OMR Storm Flex (8.5) | Start of OMR – Onramp of Larval and Juvenile DS Protection Action (8.4.1) or last day of February (whichever occurs first) | In Effect | -Delta is in excess  -QWEST is > +1,500 cfs  -X2 is < 81 km  - Daily average turbidity at OSJ, HOL, and OBI are <12 FNU  -Higher level of outflow available for diversion due to storm flows  -Measurable amount of precipitation has occurred  -None of COA’s are controlling operations (8.2.1, 8.3.2, 8.3.3,, 8.4.2, 8.4.3, 8.4.4, 8.4.5, 8.4.7)  -Cumulative loss at CVP and SWP of yearling CNFH LFR Chinook salmon (as yearling CHNSR surrogates) is < 0.5% with any of the release groups | N/A | N/A | 1/6/25 | Based on storm conditions |
| End of OMR  Management (8.6) | Jun. 1 – Jun. 30 | Not in effect | Smelt:  -Daily mean water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay (CLC) is > or equal to 25 C for 3 consecutive days  Salmonids:  -Current daily average water temperature is > 22.2 C at Mossdale and Prisoners Point for 7 days (can be non-consecutive). | N/A | N/A | 11/12/24 | N/A |

Table 4: Fish monitoring gear efficiency and disruptions. Status Categories: [1] Active (ongoing sampling), [2] Partial Interruption (some sampling interruptions), [3] Interrupted (sampling fully suspended), [4] Not Active (sampling not scheduled)

| Monitoring survey | Region | Notes (as of 1/21/2025) | Status |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SWP regular counts, CWT reading | Delta | Active | 1 |
| SWP larval sampling | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| CVP regular counts, CWT reading | Delta | Active | 1 |
| CVP larval sampling | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Smelt Larval Survey | Delta | Active | 1 |
| LES | Delta | Active | 1 |
| 20mm Survey | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Fall Mid-water Trawl | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Summer Townet Survey | Delta | Not Active | 4 |
| Bay Study | Delta | Active | 1 |
| DJFMP- Chipps and Sacramento Trawls | Delta | Active | 1 |
| DJFMP- Seines | Delta | Active | 1 |
| EDSM | Delta | Active | 1 |
| EMP | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Mossdale | Delta | Active | 1 |
| USGS Flow monitoring | Delta | Active | 1 |
| Red Bluff Diversion Dam Rotary Screw Trap (RST) | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Knights Landing RST | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Tisdale RST | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| GCID RST | Sacramento River | Not Active | 4 |
| Mill Creek RST | Mill Creek | Active | 1 |
| Deer Creek RST | Deer Creek | Inactive | 4 |
| Yuba River (Hallwood) RST | Yuba River | Active | 1 |
| Butte Creek Carcass Surveys | Butte Creek | Not Active | 4 |
| Butte Creek RST | Butte Creek | Active | 1 |
| Redd dewatering and stranding surveys | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Sacramento Carcass and Redd Surveys (late fall-run Chinook Salmon) | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Lower Sacramento RST | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Feather River (upper DWR) RST | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Feather River (lower CDFW) RST | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| Feather River Carcass Survey (fall-run Chinook Salmon) | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |
| SJRRP CDFW Field Monitoring | San Joaquin River | Active | 1 |
| SJRRP USFWS and USBR Field Monitoring | San Joaquin River | Active | 1 |
| Stanislaus Fish Weir | San Joaquin River | Active | 1 |
| Stanislaus River Carcass Survey (steelhead/fall-run) | San Joaquin River | Active | 1 |
| American River Carcass Survey | Sacramento River | Active | 1 |

Preference (i.e., a y-intercept of 0.5)